National River Action Plan

2015. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a National River Action Plan for cleansing major rivers like Sabarmati, Yamuna, Godavari, Krishna. Sutlej and Hindon in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan and the extent of contribution proposed to be made by the Central Government and respective State Governments;

(c) by when the plan is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the details of the foreign countries willing to provide assistance for the task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) A National River Action Plan (NRAP) for abatement of pollution in the grossly polluted stretches of major rivers in the country is under formulation. Details in this regard including sources of funding are under finalisation. The plan is proposed to be taken up as a centrally sponsored scheme with sharing of the capital cost of the works on 50:50 basis between the Centre and the concerned State Governments.

Afforestation Schemes for Orissa

2016. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of afforestation schemes sponsored by Government in Orissa;

(b) the steps taken to monitor the implementation of those schems; and

(c) the steps taken to complete the backlog of afforestation in Orissa and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND lORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Afforestation activities are being carried out in Orissa under the following main Centrally Sponsored Schemes:—

— Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme

— Minor Forest Produce Plantations Scheme

— Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme

— Decentralised People's Nurseries Scheme

— Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects Scheme

— Drought Prone Areas Programme

(b) Monitoring of afforestation and tree planting activities at the field level is carried out by the State Governments. From the Centre, the ach'ievements are monitored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implmentation. With a view to improve performance, the State Governments have been advised to strengthen the monitoring mechanism as well as to draw up location-wise details of the afforestation and tree planting activities and share this information widely with the people's representatives and the public. Sample checking of the actual planting work done during the past year is being taken up.

(c) The targets for afforestation and tree planting activities under the 20-Point Programme are fixed each year in consultation with the State Governments and depending on funding availability. The overall position is that in the Seventh Plan period (1985-86 to 1989-90) the total target for the five year period was 8.6 million hectares, whereas the achievement was 8.8 million hectares for all the States and Union Territories put together.